

THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

VOL. VII.

JULY, 1849.

No. 79.

CONTENTS.

CHOLERA.		Hydration of Quicklime for generating heat	
Cholera, - - - - -	53	in Cholera, - - - - -	57
New York, - - - - -	53	Homœopathy and the Cholera (Paris), - - -	57
Philadelphia, - - - - -	54	Progress of Cholera at Paris, - - - - -	57
New Orleans, - - - - -	54	Statistics of Cholera in Paris, - - - - -	59
Health of Philadelphia, - - - - -	54	The Cholera in Dublin, - - - - -	59
Health of New York, - - - - -	54		
Cholera in the United States, - - - - -	55		
Mexico, - - - - -	56		
Pathological Appearance in Cholera, - - -	56		
Albumen in the Urine of Cholera Patients, -	56		
Preservations against Cholera, - - - - -	56		
Cholera cured by Cannabis, - - - - -	57		

MEDICAL NEWS.

Domestic Intelligence.—Ovariectomy, - -	59
Sickness in the Baltimore Alms-House, -	60
Cholera. The Chicago Remedy, - - - - -	60

WEST'S LECTURES,

TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

CHOLERA.

Cholera.—As this pestilence is now prevailing extensively over our country, in some places with extraordinary fatality, we are sure that it cannot but be agreeable to our subscribers for us to devote the greater portion of this number of the News to chronicling the latest intelligence in regard to it.

New York.—The present outbreak of cholera commenced in the city of New York about the middle of May. The following table exhibits the number of cases and deaths reported each day up to July 1.

	Cases.	Deaths.
May 18 -	12	8
" 19 -	0	0
" 20 -	0	0
" 21 -	3	2
" 22 -	3	1
" 23 -	0	0
" 24 -	1	1
" 25 -	2	1
" 26 -	2	1
" 27 -	0	1
" 28 -	0	1
" 29 -	8	4
" 30 -	7	2
" 31 -	8	3
June 1 -	8	4
" 2 -	13	7

	Cases.	Deaths.
June 3 -	25	11
" 4 -	23	9
" 5 -	39	11
" 6 -	60	10
" 7 -	38	19
" 8 -	26	12
" 9 -	40	19
" 10 -	16	10
" 11 -	14	12
" 12 -	36	19
" 13 -	44	14
" 14 -	38	16
" 15 -	27	14
" 16 -	27	15
" 17 -	26	18
" 18 -	42	17
" 19 -	41	10
" 20 -	30	13
" 21 -	26	14
" 22 -	38	16
" 23 -	40	21
" 24 -	38	21
" 25 -	47	25
" 26 -	73	38
" 27 -	43	24
" 28 -	60	25
" 29 -	39	18
" 30 -	88	26
Totals	1151	513

Published Monthly by LEA & BLANCHARD, Philadelphia, at One Dollar a-year, and sent GRATUITOUSLY to all subscribers of the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, who remit the Annual Subscription, Five Dollars, in advance. In no case will this work be sent unless the money is paid in advance. This should pay postage as one newspaper.

VOL. VII.—7

Philadelphia.—Cholera made its first appearance in the neighbourhood of Philadelphia on the 30th of May, and though the number of cases, within the last few days, have suddenly largely increased, they have principally occurred in the districts, and particularly immediately along the shore of the Delaware.

The following table shows the whole number of cases of cholera, and deaths from the disease, from the 30th of May, when it was first reported.

	Cases.	Deaths.
May 30	3	3
June 1	2	0
" 2	1	0
" 5	1	0
" 7	2	2
" 12	2	1
" 13	3	1
" 14	2	1
" 15	2	0
" 16	2	2
" 17	2	1
" 18	3	1
" 19	6	1
" 20	3	2
" 21	10	4
" 22	5	1
" 23	5	2
" 24	5	2
" 25	20	8
" 26	21	10
" 27	43	12
" 28	40	13

	Cases.	Deaths.
June 29	48	9
" 30	48	18
Totals	279	87

New Orleans.—The following table exhibits the weekly mortality from cholera at New Orleans, between the 24th of Feb. and 21st of April.

	Deaths from Cholera.
Week ending March 3	25
" 10	50
" 17	116
" 24	287
" 31	238
April 7	117
" 14	73
" 21	101

Health of Philadelphia.—The following table shows the mortality in Philadelphia during the last five weeks, and that during the corresponding period of last year; and also the number of deaths weekly, during these periods, from diseases of the bowels.

It will be perceived that, notwithstanding the prevalence of cholera, the whole mortality is rather less, during the last five weeks, than during the corresponding period of last year, and this is most strikingly the case, if the last week be left out of the account. Even the mortality from bowel complaints has been but little more during the former than during the latter period, and for the first four weeks was even less.

1848.									1849.								
Week ending	Total Mortality.	Cholera Asphyxia.	Cholera Infantum.	Cholera Morbus.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Inflammation of the stomach and bowels.	Total from bowel complaints.	Week ending	Total Mortality.	Cholera Asphyxia.	Cholera Infantum.	Cholera Morbus.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Inflammation of the stomach and bowels.	Total from bowel complaints.
June 3d,	130	0	6	1	1	0	6	14	June 2d,	138	3	3	1	3	2	3	15
“ 10th,	165	0	16	3	3	4	5	31	“ 9th,	130	3	0	1	2	2	5	13
“ 17th,	181	0	22	1	6	5	5	29	“ 16th,	119	5	6	3	4	1	1	20
“ 24th,	244	0	45	3	4	16	7	75	“ 23d,	184	14	20	5	2	0	3	30
July 1st,	220	0	48	3	5	13	10	79	“ 30th,	343	80	40	9	13	15	8	165
Total	940	0	137	11	17	38	33	228	Total	914	105	69	19	24	27	20	243

Health of New York.—The deaths in New York, for the week ending on the 24th of June, were 473; of which 152 were by cholera, 10 by cholera morbus, 10 by diarrhoea; 13 by dysentery; 12 by inflammation of the bowels. The mortality for the week ending June 30, was 734, of which 286 were cholera.

The following table shows the mortality of the last five weeks with the corresponding period of 1848.

	1848.	1849.
Week ending May 27,	247	May 26, 294
do do June 3,	228	June 2, 270
do do do 10,	245	do 9, 409
do do do 17,	250	do 16, 425
do do do 24,	263	do 23, 460
Total	1233	1858

Cholera in the United States.—The following is a summary of the most recent intelligence respecting cholera in this country.

CONNECTICUT. *New Haven.* June 27; 2 cases—1 death. June 28; 3 cases—1 death.

Hartford. June 28; one case—fatal.

NEW YORK. *City of New York.* June 30th; 88 cases, and 26 deaths.

The cases and deaths this week were reported as follows:—

	Cases.	Deaths.	Discharges.
Private practice,	240	109	—
Hospitals,	126	66	34
Colored Home,	7	3	—
Lunatic Asylum,	10	7	2
Penitentiary Hospital,	5	1	0
Total,	388	183	36

Taking the weekly reports of the interments up to Saturday last, and the bulletins of the Board of Health for this week, the number of deaths by cholera from the commencement, this year, is 646. For the corresponding period of 1832, they amounted to 2441; and of 1834, to 734. In both those years, the progress of the epidemic rapidly declined at this stage in its history. In each instance, however, this was later in the season—in 1832, in the middle of August; in 1834, in September.

Albany. June 29; one case.

Rochester. June 28; 2 cases—both fatal.

Buffalo. June 28; 7 cases and 5 deaths reported.

Rondout. The cholera has been fearfully prevalent and fatal at Rondout, Ulster county. This village is situated at the terminus of the Delaware and Hudson Canal, where a large number of vessels are taking in coal.

Brooklyn. Ten deaths from cholera during the week ending June 23.

NEW JERSEY. *Camden.*

June 25,	Cases 9	Deaths 4
" 26,	" 20	" 4
" 27,	" 18	" 3

VIRGINIA. *Richmond.* June 26.

The Secretary of the Board of Health, at Richmond, Va., reports that, from the organization of the Board up to Saturday, 97 cases of cholera were reported—50 whites and 23 colored. Of these, 42 deaths have been reported—19 white and 23 colored. The others recovered, or the result not reported to the board. Nearly all the cases occurred in persons more or less debilitated from intemperance, imprudence in diet, or from previous diarrhœa. Ten cases and three deaths were reported on Sunday and Monday.

Petersburgh. The Board of Health of Petersburg, on the 26th, report 35 new cases of cholera and 17 deaths, as having occurred since their last report, on the 22d instant.

Norfolk. Forty-six cases and 16 deaths for the week ending June 26.

LOUISIANA. *New Orleans.* Sixty-five deaths from cholera during the week ending June 16th.

OHIO. *Cincinnati.* June 22. The cholera, which has heretofore been confined to the lower classes of our community, now assumes a more general form, and carries off both the high and the lowly. Several of our most respectable citizens have been borne away by the epidemic. At noon, to-day, all the cemeteries, except one, handed in their reports for the preceding twenty-four hours, during which time 70 interments had taken place, 54 of which were caused by the cholera.

June 26. 162 deaths from cholera in the last twenty-four hours. June 29. 143 interments—96 from cholera. June 30. 107 interments—81 from cholera.

Dayton. June 26. The Dayton Journal, of yesterday morning, records eight deaths in that city, from cholera, since their publication on Saturday. Seven of the deaths occurred during Saturday night and Sunday. Several other cases, more or less malignant, remained under treatment; and a number who were attacked with the premonitory symptoms, were convalescent.

Cleveland. June 26; one fatal case.

KENTUCKY. *Lexington Asylum.* June 12 to 24; 22 cases—six deaths.

Louisville. June 21; 8 deaths.

Maysville. June 3; one death.

TENNESSEE. *Nashville.* Dr. McCall writes from Nashville, under date of June

18, as follows: "In the last seven days, there have been 700 cases of cholera—many are still sick. In the week preceding yesterday, were 118 deaths; of which on the 14th were 20; 15th, 41; 16, 25 or 26, from cholera. Yesterday, cholera was light—perhaps 20 cases and 5 deaths. Today, 25 cases, and 7 to 10 deaths."

The Nashville True Whig, of the 19th, says: "The total number of burials for the past week amount to 124 in all, 119 of which were reported as cholera."

The same paper, of the 24th, says:—"Burials on Thursday, seven in all; four of which were cholera."

Memphis. June 14; 20 deaths.

ILLINOIS. At Elizabethtown, on the Ohio river, out of a population of less than 300, there have been 24 deaths in the course of two or three days. The inhabitants are fleeing from the place.

Chicago, June 21 and 22. Five deaths.

MISSOURI. St. Louis. The cholera has committed the most frightful ravages in this place. The total number of interments for the week ending June 18th was 521, of which 419 were from cholera; 106 were children under 5 years of age. The total number of interments for the week ending June 24th was 763, of which 589 were from cholera; and it is supposed that many were buried in private grounds, whose deaths have not been reported.

INDIANA. In Aurora, a village of 1500 inhabitants, there were 34 deaths in three days. The *Lawrensbury (Ia.) Register*, of the 24th ult., says:—"The dreadful mortality still continues at Aurora, although a very large portion of the citizens have left the place, and taken refuge in the neighbouring country. We have not a full list of deaths, therefore we give no names this week, but they are said to amount to 66. This mortality exceeds, by far, any report of any epidemic we have ever heard of in the United States, in proportion to the population."

TEXAS. San Antonio. The cholera is said to have nearly disappeared from San Antonio, Texas, after nearly one-half the population had fallen victims to its ravages. The mortality is stated as 700 in a population of 1500.

Mexico.—The *Mexico Siglo* states that the cholera has not only invaded the centre of the State of Tamaulipas, but it is march-

ing toward the cities of the South. A letter from Monterey, dated May 27, says that the disease had carried off 1200 persons from that city, and not less than 4000 inhabitants from the whole State. It had not yet visited the capital.

At Saltillo, 280 deaths from cholera had occurred in one day.

Pathological Appearance in Cholera.—

The numerous microscopic investigations which have lately been made in Paris tend to establish that hypertrophy of the intestinal follicles, coinciding with a protrusion of Peyer's glands, and more or less vascularity, are pretty constantly found in persons who have died of cholera. Large ecchymoses have also been discovered in all the parenchymatous organs, not only on their surface, but situated within their substance. These ecchymoses have been found so extensive, and of so dark a colour, that they looked very much like gangrenous patches. —*Lancet*.

Albumen in the Urine of Cholera Patients.

—It appears from investigations made at the military hospital of Val de Grâce, and at the Hôtel Dieu, in Dr. ROSTAN'S wards, that albumen exists in the urine of cholera patients, as proved by the nitric acid and heat tests. Whenever the urine was tried, albumen was found in it, and this took place with as many as thirty patients. This substance is, however, not to be discovered in every stage of the disease; it is mostly to be found at the beginning of the attack, and three or four days after. It has generally seemed that the presence of albumen was in keeping with the severity of the attack; when the albumen diminishes before the time when it is commonly absent, some improvement may be foretold. Dr. Rostan is inclined to attach much importance to this new symptom, and in doubtful cases would give no prognosis without testing the urine.

—*Preservations against Cholera.*—From communications made to French medical papers and the Academy of Medicine, it would appear that both mercury and tobacco protect from the disease. Dr. VIDAL DE CASSIS mentions that no cases have occurred at the Venereal Hospitals of Paris, where mercury is much used; and Dr. HURTEAUX announces that the workmen of the national tobacco factories in Paris have

not suffered at all—a few cases only having occurred among the women of the establishments, who are *not* exposed to the emanations of the tobacco. We must add, however, that M. BONNAFONT, of Arras, has stated that the first cases of cholera which took place in the hospital of that city occurred in the venereal wards. These conflicting statements are very likely to engender skepticism as to the protective influence of mercury.—*Lancet*, May 26.

Cholera cured by Cannabis.—Dr. du MARGAT, a surgeon in a French infantry regiment, has published, in *L'Union Médicale*, the case of the master-shoemaker of the regiment, who was suddenly seized at Dieppe with all the symptoms of cholera. After starch enemata with laudanum had failed, Dr. du Margat mixed a teaspoonful of a concentrated tincture of cannabine in a glass of sugar water, and gave the patient a few spoonfuls of the mixture. These were violently rejected, but by continuing to administer small doses, they were retained. The whole tumbler was taken, and in three-quarters of an hour, gradual and gentle reaction set in. The patient continued to improve, and was quite well three days afterwards. The supporters of this medication state that its good effects in cholera are due to the power which the cannabine possesses of powerfully exciting the nervous system. Thus may the most fearful symptom of the disease be combated, and the nervous energy be roused so far as to bring on reaction. According to the formula of a French chemist at Cairo, the tincture of cannabine contains one grain of this principle in every five drops of the spirit.—*Ibid.*, June 1849.

Hydration of Quicklime for generating heat in Cholera.—This well-known manner of generating heat has been lately employed, with great success, at the Hospital of St. Denis, near Paris, in the algide period of cholera. Two beds should be used—one for applying the heat, the other for receiving the patient when reaction has been established. The second bed is, of course, to be well warmed beforehand. Hoops having been so disposed as to prevent the bed-clothes coming in contact with the patient's limbs, and the blankets carefully tucked in at the side and under the sick man's head and shoulders, two lumps of quicklime,

about the size of two fists each, are to be wrapped up in coarse cloths, previously dipped in a strong aromatic infusion; the whole to be covered with a dry rag, and placed in a basin by the hips of the patient. After a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes, the whole apparatus is to be quickly removed, and the patient, who will probably have been thrown into a profuse perspiration, carefully put into the second bed; and if not too much affected with dejections, wrapped up in a blanket. Since this mode has been introduced in the above-mentioned hospital, the mortality has signally diminished.—*Ibid.*, May 19.

Homœopathy and the Cholera (Paris).—Dr. GUILLOT, attached to the Salpêtrière, annoyed at the little success his treatment of cholera was meeting with, and staggered by the high-sounding promises of the adherents of homœopathy, lately gave one of the latter six beds in the above-named establishment, the patients to be treated homœopathically. Hahnemann's follower immediately set to work, and began to exhibit, first globules of arsenic, then globules of bryony, and lastly of charcoal. But alas for the poor patients! out of seven thus treated, not one recovered! Of course, the homœopathic practitioner was obliged to give up; but he cheered himself with the belief that, after running through the whole materia medica, the true treatment of cholera *must* at last be found. Similar trials have been made at the Hôpital St. Louis, with pretty nearly the same results. These facts will be a warning to those who would be inclined to give faith to the magnificent promises of homœopaths.—*Ibid.*

Progress of Cholera at Paris.—May 18, 1849. A slight decrease in the number of admissions has been recorded. On the 14th and 15th of May, 222 cholera patients were admitted into the civil hospitals, and only 205 on the 16th and 17th. Both asylums and military and civil hospitals present, from the invasion of the disease to the 18th of May, 5460 cases, and 2746 deaths. The cases are again on the increase at the Salpêtrière; two *internes* of this establishment have died of the disease, and there have been no less than six cases among the medical staff of the hospital. One of these unfortunate *internes* (house-physician or surgeon) did

night-duty previous to the day on which he died, and was carried off very suddenly. In the military hospital of Gros Caillou, there has been dreadful havoc among the attendants on the sick; five have died the last two days.—*Ibid.*

May 25th, 1849. For the last two days a notable decrease in the number of cases has been reported. The mean of the late daily returns was 84 cases per diem in civil hospitals: it has now come down to 68. On the 23d of May there were 73 cases admitted, 33 deaths, and 29 discharged; on the 24th, there were 63 cases admitted, 54 deaths, and 39 discharged. This decrease has been felt throughout the civil hospitals. The total amount from the invasion of the disease to May 25, is 6248 cases, and 3320 deaths. Matters do not look well at the Salpêtrière: there have been 15 new cases these last two days, and it is really painful to think, that from the end of March to this day there have been in that asylum no less than 1010 cases, and 796 deaths. Military hospitals still receive a great many cholera patients; and we regret to say that M. Soudan, head pharmacien to the Gros-Caillou, has just died of the disease. *L'Union Médicale* gives a return of the mortality in town, but the number of cases are not mentioned. The deaths, from the breaking out of the epidemic to May 22d, have been 2660.

June 1. The report from the civil hospitals gives, for May 31, 103 admissions, 47 deaths, and 62 patients discharged. The number of admissions is much above that of the preceding day, which was only 71. The total return for civil and military hospitals, as well as asylums of every description, is, to the 1st of June, 6988 cases, and 3701 deaths. The number of deaths from cholera in private life is, up to the same date, 3012. It will thus be seen that no less than 6713 persons have fallen victims to this epidemic in about three months. Ten members of the National Assembly have lately died, it is said, of cholera.

June 8, 1849. Cholera is making fearful ravages in Paris. Amongst the victims has been Marshal Bugeaud. The cases admitted in the civil hospitals have increased rapidly since the 1st of June; they are as follows:—

	Cases.	Deaths.	Discharged.
June 1	95	49	23
" 2	134	54	54
" 3	208	119	36

	Cases.	Deaths.	Discharged.
June 4	295	112	55
" 5	274	133	41
" 6	331	138	30
" 7	296	162	58

It appears that the very hot weather which set in towards the 2d of June, has had much influence on the rapid spread of the epidemic. The fatal termination of the attacks has become awfully sudden; on this subject, *L'Union Médicale* says:—"It is of no use to conceal that the disease has acquired, for the last two days, a very grave character; nothing so fearful has been seen since the breaking out of the scourge. There is an almost total absence of premonitory symptoms, and the progress of the malady is, in most cases, quite appalling. The different stages are mixed up, or follow each other with such rapidity, that it is by no means rare to see patients die without having had, properly speaking, hardly any of the usual symptoms of cholera." The most exaggerated rumours have been afloat respecting the mortality in private life, principally because the authorities persist in not publishing regular reports of the cases. No less than 600 deaths were said to have taken place on the 5th, whereas the reality, which, however, is a very high figure, is but 330. The following numbers are given by *L'Union Médicale*:—

Mortality in Private Life.

	Deaths from other diseases.	Deaths from cholera.
June 1	66	77
" 2	64	136
" 3	43	324
" 4	82	318
" 5	69	330

Nothing less than the awful mortality now recorded would have induced the prompt establishment of public dispensaries for the immediate assistance of the sick. The prefect of police has just announced that such dispensaries, which were, in fact, previously organized, are now open in the different districts of the capital. This measure was very urgently called for, since it is said that in the ninth and tenth districts ninety persons out of a hundred died without any medical assistance whatsoever. If this be strictly true, it is hardly pardonable, and betokens shocking negligence on the part of government. The Sisters of Charity are mostly called to the sick, but they are themselves dying off so fast, that their number is no longer adequate to the task. Much

discussion has taken place among medical practitioners as to the propriety of allowing cold bathing during the prevalence of the epidemic; the majority seems to incline to the innocuity, and even the advisability of the practice. Opinions are, however, unanimous in condemning the use of iced or cold drinks, which are so eagerly resorted to during the hot weather. We conclude our notice with the total amount of cases and deaths. From the beginning to the 8th of June, there have been, in the asylums and civil and military hospitals, 8923 cases, and 4409 deaths. In private life, up to the fifth of June, 4435 deaths. M. Rothschild has sent £400 to the Prefect of the Seine, to be distributed to the families deprived of their means of support by the large mortality from cholera.—*Ibid.*

Statistics of Cholera in Paris.—The following is an official return of the cases of cholera in the different hospitals since the commencement of the epidemic:—

	Cases.	Deaths.	Cures.
Hôtel Dieu . . .	1,111	502	437
La Pitié . . .	565	289	229
La Charité . . .	475	249	123
St. Marguerite . . .	120	61	41
St. Antoine . . .	138	75	45
Necker . . .	181	98	84
Cochin . . .	66	31	30
Blanjon . . .	374	188	114
Bon-Secours . . .	130	73	32
St. Louis . . .	577	272	206
L'Ourcine . . .	23	7	11
Enfants Malades . . .	76	29	33
Clinique . . .	30	23	7
Maison de Sante . . .	76	42	21
Maison d'Accouchement . . .	2	1	1
St. Lazare . . .	43	21	14
Bicêtre . . .	210	194	24
Salpêtrière . . .	1,078	648	224
Incurables (men) . . .	11	9	1
Incurables (women) . . .	13	12	1
Enfants trouves . . .	1	1	0
Menages . . .	54	36	0
Larochevoucauld . . .	5	3	0
St. Perine . . .	4	3	1
MILITARY HOSPITALS.			
Valdegrace . . .	448	116	232
Gros Caillon . . .	627	215	228
Roule . . .	367	177	89
Popincourt . . .	142	77	0
Hôtel des Invalides . . .	57	33	19
	6988	3701	2244

The number of deaths in private houses has been 3,012, and the total mortality 6,713. At Salpêtrière several of the *internes* have been cut off by the disease; and at Gros Caillon no less than 12 of the attendants on the sick have fallen victims. Within the last day or two we have had a slight recrudescence, and during the week several individuals of distinction, as they are called, have been removed by the disease. Amongst them, I may mention the Princess of Wagram, widow of Marshal Berthier, and M. Latouche, Member of the Assembly, who was cut off in three hours. Many other members of the National Assembly have been attacked within the last two days, several have died, and the evident insalubrity of the building has compelled the Assembly to remove its meetings to the old Chamber of Deputies.—*Med. Times*, June 1849.

Cholera in Dublin.—The disease is steadily and slowly spreading in the Irish metropolis. During the week ending June the 11th, the number of cases admitted into the various hospitals were as follows: Kilmainham Hospital, 102; Brunswick-street Hospital, 46; Green-street Hospital, 40; these, together with 9 cases which occurred in the 2d Royals, gives a total of 197 during the week, being an average of 28 per diem. Of the foregoing 197 cases, 95 died, and 81 are reported to be recovering. This gives a large apparent mortality of between 46 and 47 per cent.—*Ibid.*

MEDICAL NEWS. DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Ovariectomy.—Dr. W. L. ATLEE writes to us: "Will you please to mention, in the July number of the 'News,' that I have performed the operation of gastrotomy three times since the month of March last. All the patients recovered; the recoveries not having been interrupted by a single symptom requiring attention."

"The first operation was on the 15th of March, the patient, Mrs. E. K., aged 29 years; the incision from sixteen to seventeen inches long, the tumour fibrous, weighing eight pounds, and adhering very strongly to the bones of the pelvis. I sent you the report of this case for the July number of your journal.*

* It came to hand too late for that number, but will appear in that for October next.

"The second operation was on the 22d of May, the patient Miss M. T., aged 33 years; the incision about twelve inches long, the tumour uterine, and not adherent. The mass was withdrawn from the cavity of the abdomen, carefully examined, and again replaced.

"The third operation was on the 16th of June, the patient Miss H. M., aged 25 years; the incision extending from above the umbilicus to the pubis, the tumour cystiform, multilocular, weighing forty pounds, having numerous peritoneal adhesions.

"A report of the last two cases will be prepared for the October number of the journal.

"A mixture of one part of chloroform and two parts of ether, was used as the anæsthetic agent in all the cases. It had the most remarkable influence over the diaphragm, the abdominal muscles, and viscera, maintaining them in the most perfect and astonishing quietude. It also entirely prevented the shock, which always accompanies this operation where chloroform is not used. I have no doubt that the use of anæsthesia will strip this operation of most of its dangers, and render it simple and safe; for the recovery in each of the above cases was as rapid and as satisfactory as from the most simple wound in any other part of the body.

"I wish to state, also, that compresses, kept constantly wet with cold water, covering the whole surface of the abdomen, were the only dressings used."

"Philadelphia, June 25, 1849."

Sickness in the Baltimore Alms-House.—Current reports of a strange and anomalous epidemic in the alms-house at Baltimore have elicited the following letter from the attending physicians:—

BALTIMORE ALMS-HOUSE, June 16, 1849.
To the Editors of the Baltimore Patriot:

Various and contradictory statements having been made through the daily press of our city, relating to a fever which has lately been introduced into the medical wards at the Baltimore Alms-House, we deem it our duty to say, that this fever is a highly malignant typhus, modified by climate, infectious in its character, but accompanied, in a large majority of cases, by intense jaundice, in this respect resembling typhus icterodes of systematic writers.

It has come to us only in the past three

weeks, during which time forty-six cases have been admitted, and of these the very large proportion of twenty have proved fatal. The remainder are still under treatment.

It has been brought alike from every section of the city, and as yet has only occurred among the free blacks.

Thus far it has been much more grave among males than females, owing probably to differences of habits and occupation.

A large majority of cases have been fatal between the third and seventh day, and in some instances they have died a few minutes after admission, and three days from the date of seizure.

This disease is by no means confined to the worthless and abandoned, but has, on the contrary, frequently happened in individuals of temperate and industrious habits, whose means were adequate to provide them with wholesome food and sufficient clothing.

The point of importance, at present, is its infectious character. Two strong and healthy women, residents of the house, and employed as nurses, have taken the infection and died.

THOS. H. BUCKLER, M. D.

H. WILLIS BAXLEY, M. D.

Cholera. The Chicago Remedy.—Dr. Z. PITCHER, of Detroit, has sent us the *Detroit Free Press*, for June 16, containing a curious statement from him respecting the much vaunted specific of Dr. Bird. He says that he was "called to see a young lady, quite indisposed, whose symptoms were so analogous to those produced by a full dose of opium or morphine, that the inquiry was at once made of her friends whether she had taken a narcotic in any form, within the last few hours. Both by them and herself I was assured, that the only medicine she had taken in several days was one of Dr. Bird's Chicago pills, the evening before, to arrest a diarrhœa, which it had done very effectually.

"I am so strongly impressed with the idea that the symptoms of narcosis were occasioned by the pill, that I have obtained two others from the same source."

These two last he submitted to A. R. Terry, M. D., who, upon chemical examination, says he discovered a notable portion of morphia, or one of its salts! Dr. Terry further states that he has "taken pains to trace these pills, and has the strongest reasons to suppose—nay, I am sure, that they came from Dr. Bird, of Chicago, himself."